National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

# Climate change effects on human health in a gender perspective: Some trends in Arctic research

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**Abstract:**

Background: Climate change and environmental pollution have become pressing concerns for the peoples in the Arctic region. Some researchers link climate change, transformations of living conditions and human health. A number of studies have also provided data on differentiating effects of climate change on women's and men's well-being and health. Objective: To show how the issues of climate and environment change, human health and gender are addressed in current research in the Arctic. The main purpose of this article is not to give a full review but to draw attention to the gaps in knowledge and challenges in the Arctic research trends on climate change, human health and gender. Methods: A broad literature search was undertaken using a variety of sources from natural, medical, social science and humanities. The focus was on the keywords. Results: Despite the evidence provided by many researchers on differentiating effects of climate change on well-being and health of women and men, gender perspective remains of marginal interest in climate change, environmental and health studies. At the same time, social sciences and humanities, and gender studies in particular, show little interest towards climate change impacts on human health in the Arctic. As a result, we still observe the division of labour between disciplines, the disciplinary-bound pictures of human development in the Arctic and terminology confusion. Conclusion: Efforts to bring in a gender perspective in the Arctic research will be successful only when different disciplines would work together. Multidisciplinary research is a way to challenge academic/disciplinary homogeneity and their boundaries, to take advantage of the diversity of approaches and methods in production of new integrated knowledge. Cooperation and dialogue across disciplines will help to develop adequate indicators for monitoring human health and elaborating efficient policies and strategies to the benefit of both women and men in the Arctic.

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## Resource Description

**Exposure :**

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Unspecified Exposure

**Geographic Feature:**

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Arctic

**Geographic Location:** ☑

resource focuses on specific location

Global or Unspecified

**Health Impact:** ☑

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Health Outcome Unspecified

**Population of Concern:** A focus of content

**Other Vulnerable Population:** women

**Resource Type:** ☑

format or standard characteristic of resource

Review

**Timescale:** ☑

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified